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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

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* A/63/50.

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Overall orientation

5.1 The overall purpose of the programme is the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. The legislative authority and direction of the programme is drawn from relevant General Assembly resolutions and the decisions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was established in 1959 by the Assembly in its resolution 1472 (XIV), the Committee's Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies. Recommendations of particular relevance to the work to be undertaken under this programme are contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 54/68.

5.2 By its resolution 59/2, the General Assembly reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and endorsed the Committee's Plan of Action, contained in the Committee's related report (A/59/174). The Plan of Action constitutes a long-term strategy for enhancing mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels for developing and strengthening the use of space science and technology and their applications to support overarching global agendas for sustainable development; developing coordinated, global space capabilities; supporting specific agendas to meet human development needs at the global level; and supporting overarching capacity development. In implementing that strategy, the Committee will provide a bridge between users and potential providers of space-based development and services and will take advantage of partnerships established between its secretariat, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

5.3 In line with that strategy, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/110, established the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). UN-SPIDER will provide universal access to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle by serving as a gateway to space information for disaster management support, a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities and a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries. In its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the establishment of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems. The Committee will promote cooperation, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services. By its resolution 62/101, the General Assembly adopted recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects. The recommendations are aimed at harmonizing practices relating to objects launched into outer space. In its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/62/20, paras. 117 and 118 and annex). Those guidelines, to be implemented on a voluntary basis, reflect the existing practices of a number of national and international organizations.

5.4 The programme will continue to strengthen the international legal regime governing outer space, resulting in improved conditions for expanding international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The implementation of the programme will also strengthen efforts at the national, regional and global levels, including among entities of the United Nations system and international space-related entities, to maximize the benefits of the use of space science and technology and their applications.

Objective of the Organization: to further strengthen international cooperation among Member States and international entities in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards achieving internationally agreed sustainable development goals

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Greater understanding, acceptance and implementation by the international community of the legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities	(a) (i) Increased number of States and intergovernmental organizations that have adhered to or declared their acceptance of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (ii) Increased number of States and intergovernmental organizations that have taken action to implement and/or apply the United Nations treaties, the Principles governing outer space activities and other relevant resolutions (iii) Greater number of States and intergovernmental organizations submitting information on space objects in a timely and more harmonized manner
(b) Strengthened capacities of countries in using space science and technology and their applications in areas related, in particular, to sustainable development	(b) Increased number of countries that have taken action to use space science and technology and their applications to support their national development programmes and activities
(c) Increased coherence and synergy in the space-related work of entities of the United Nations system and international space-related entities in using space science and technology and their applications as tools to advance human development and increase overall capacity development	(c) (i) Increased number of partnerships and/or synergies with United Nations organizations to promote awareness, strengthen capacity and use space science and technology and their applications (ii) Increased number of partnerships and/or synergies with international space-related entities and industry to promote awareness, strengthen capacity and use space science and technology and their applications

	(iii) Increased number of actions taken in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency towards the development of an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power source applications in outer space
	(iv) Increased number of national, regional and international entities that support the regional centres for space science and technology education and/or contribute to their continuing education programmes
(d) Greater understanding, acceptance and commitment by countries and relevant international and regional organizations on ways at accessing and developing the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle	(d) (i) Increased number of countries requesting assistance in the definition of disaster management planning and policies with regard to the use of space-based technologies
	(ii) Increased number of countries requesting technical advisory support for implementing risk reduction and emergency response activities using space-based information

Strategy

5.5 The Office for Outer Space Affairs is substantively responsible for the implementation of the programme. The overall strategy of the Office in meeting the objective of the programme includes:

(a) Promoting greater awareness of and strengthening the capacity to implement the international legal regime governing outer space activities, including the development of national space legislation, and promoting increased opportunities for education in space law;

(b) Strengthening capacity, in particular of the developing countries, in the use and applications of space science and technology for sustainable development and increasing awareness of decision makers of the benefits of space science and technology and their applications in addressing societal needs for sustainable development;

(c) Supporting the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular those that have relevance to the internationally agreed development goals;

(d) Assisting in consensus-building among Governments and organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries engaged in space-related activities;

(e) Strengthening existing cooperative relationships and forging new partnerships to maximize the effective use of resources and identify new mechanisms for making space capabilities more readily available to all users;

(f) Contributing to the objectives of United Nations and non-United Nations bodies in addressing matters relating to space law and policy and the use of space science and technology and their applications.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

1472 A (XIV)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
1721 B (XVI)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
2453 (XXIII)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3235 (XXIX)	Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space
37/90	Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
54/68	Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/2	Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/115	Application of the concept of the "launching State"
60/99	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
61/110	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
61/111	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
62/101	Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects
62/217	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space